

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 FEAE-00 INT-05 AGR-10 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 /117 W
----- 049548

P 141700Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 784
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 2895

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ES, GT, HO, NU, PN, CS

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF CENTRAL AMERICAN
PRESIDENTS' MEETING

REF: SAN JOSE 2629

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE JULY 10, BEHIND-CLOSED-DOORS
MEETING OF THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE
RESULTED IN TWO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUEES AND A VARIETY OF
STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS BY BOTH THE PRESIDENTS AND
THE ACCOMPANYING FOREIGN MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MAJOR DOCUMENT RESULTING FROM THE DAY-LONG
MEETING HELD AT PRESIDENT ODUBER'S FINCA "LA FLOR"
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WAS THE "DECLARATION OF LA FLOR" WHICH CALLED FOR

REINVIGORATION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ALONG THE LINES OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY CEPAL (ECLA). THE DECLARATION (POUCHED TO ARA/CEN) CALLED FOR A NEW GENERAL TREATY INSTEAD OF THE PROJECTED CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION. THE PRESIDENTS ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT, PRESENTED TO THE PRESS BY GENERAL SOMOZA, CONCERNING THE PURCHASE BY THE CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS OF MEXICAN-OWNED FERTICA, THE FERTILIZER COMPANY WHICH OPERATES IN THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THE FERTICA STATEMENT CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 5-MAN COMMITTEE (ONE FROM EACH COUNTRY) TO GUIDE AND ADVISE THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE.

3. BESIDES THE TWO COMMUNIQUEES, EACH PRESIDENT ADDRESSED THE PRESS AND GAVE FURTHER INFORMATION OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS AMONG THE NATIONS. PRESIDENT ODUBER REPORTEDLY STATED THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AMONG THE FIVE TO MAKE UNIFORM THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PRICES FOR BEANS, RICE, AND CORN. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ODUBER ALSO REITERATED COSTA RICAN SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA'S CLAIM ON BELIZE.

4. MELGAR AND MOLINA SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT NEAR PEACE BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES AND COL. MELGAR, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH "LA NACION," REPORTEDLY SAID THAT PEACE WOULD BE ACHIEVED "IN A SHORT TIME THIS YEAR." THERE WERE NUMEROUS PHOTOS OF MELGAR AND MOLINA TOGETHER.

5. ACCORDING TO "EXCELSIOR" FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO OF EL SALVADOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER GALVEZ OF HONDURAS, WHO WERE MEETING SEPARATELY WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS AND THE MINISTERS OF ECONOMY, WERE MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE NEARNESS OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT THAN WERE THEIR RESPECTIVE PRESIDENTS. BORGONOVO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT PROGRESS, IN MEASURABLE TERMS, HAS BEEN VERY SMALL AND "NOT SIGNIFICANT."

6. FOREIGN MINISTER GALVEZ IN CONVERSATIONS WITH "LA REPUBLICA" REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HONDURAS WOULD HAVE ELECTIONS "WHEN THE COUNTRY IS READY..TO RETURN TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSTITUTIONALISM IS THE IDEAL."

7. PRESIDENT ODUBER, AS QUOTED BY "EXCELSIOR," SAID THE NEXT CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS' MEETINGS WOULD BE IN AUGUST AND OCTOBER, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHERE.

8. THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND EL SALVADOR REPORTEDLY LEFT COSTA RICA AFTER MEETING, BUT

GENERAL SOMOZA DECIDED TO STAY THE NIGHT AND LEFT JULY 11.
TODMAN

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